

## Charitcats!



CHARITY begins not so much at home as in the basement at The Spastics Society's Park Crescent headquarters for two little London waifs and strays. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had two small and homeless cats who, being brother and sister, were inseparable. A phone call between two of the largest charities in the world made it possible for the kittens, just five weeks old, to find a home together with the Society.

Now large and thriving, they are still inseparable, eating out of the same dish and going on mouse-chases together. The tabby male has been named by a Welsh rugby enthusiast "Barry John" after the famous Welsh player, and the tortoiseshell answers to the name of "Susie."

## The dizzy heights

A NEW ramp appeared outside Shrewsbury's County Shire Hall—much to the consternation of local wheelchair users. For the 23-foot long ramp rose three feet on the gradient at almost one in seven, and the recommended gradient is one in 12. At one in seven there is a danger of the occupant falling out if being pushed down, or overturning the chair if pushing themselves.

And the ramp leads, of all places, to the County Architect's Department!

An official explained: "Frankly, the ramp was the best that could be done under the circumstances. It was built up to an existing building and it was all we could do. We are arranging a bell system so that if anyone found difficulty they could summon the hall porter at the door."

And he added: "Anyway, one of our girls is in a wheelchair and she manages it all right."

## Literary contest winners

THE winners of the Society's literary contest for spastics will travel to London with their relatives and friends on Thursday, May 2nd, to receive their awards from Mrs. Mary Wilson, wife of the Prime Minister.

It will be a very special day for Mr. Owen Davies, aged 31, of Priors Way, Swansea, who has pulled off the remarkable "double" of winning both the male poetry section and the over 25's prose section for male writers.

He said he was "knocked out" by winning two sections of the contest, particularly as the news came just after he had heard he had won a BBC Wales prize for poetry.

A full picture story will appear in Spastics News next month, but in the meantime congratulations are in order for the rest of the winners:

Children's section, male and female winners: Christine Broughan, aged 14, a pupil at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, whose home is at Moore Drive, Haydock, Lancs.; and Peter Schlechte, aged 15, of Reva Road, Liverpool, who attends Sandfield Park School, Liverpool.

Poetry section. Owen Davies won the male entrant's prize, and the female prize was awarded jointly to: Miss Rosalind Osborne, of Coed Pella Road, Colwyn Bay, and Miss Linda Stevens, of Canterbury Road, Birchington, Kent.

Young Adults section: Female winner: Miss Ann Trotman, Syston Park, Kingswood, Bristol. Male: Stephen Tomlin, Ranelagh House, Blakenhall Gardens, Wolverhampton.

Over 25's Female winner was Mrs. Doreen M. Wood, Coats Hutton Road, Shrub End, Colchester, Essex.

## Country-wide effort for Spastics Week

AS Spastics News went to press, Spastics Week was launched on Sunday with the moving and memorable Service of Dedication at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London.

The first lesson was read by Peter Kinnison, aged 15, and the walk he took to the front of the church marked a special kind of miracle. Three years ago Peter, a pupil at the Society's Thomas Delarue School, was told he would probably never walk. He was chosen to read the lesson as he has just won four prizes at the Tonbridge Festival of Speech and Drama, including a first prize in sight reading and a second prize in Bible reading. His story of courage in getting up and taking his first faltering steps is what the work of the Society is all about.

Actor Brian Rix gave the address at the service, which

was conducted by the Rev. Peter Rose, and representatives from other Churches included Rabbi Dr. E. Newman, M.A., and the Rev. Dr. S. Russell. The Rev. Michael Garvey, Headmaster of St. Edmund's College, Ware, Herts., represented the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

### Events

A whole host of events, both old and new, are being staged throughout the country to raise money. In London they culminate in traditional Morris dancing in Trafalgar Square on Saturday, May 4, the last day of Spastics Week. Staff from the Society's headquarters will have collecting boxes at the ready to receive donations from the crowds thronging London on Cup Final Day.

A tradition revived by the Devon and Exeter Spastics Society is the "Human Gambling Horse." The idea, hopefully, is that spectators

will attempt to pin money on the horse as it cavorts about.

The Aldershot and Bagshot areas will be invaded by the Army on a strictly peaceful mission. Apprentices of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps are conducting "door-knocks" there, and their non-military objective is £1,000.

Another branch of the Armed Services, this time the Junior Technicians at RAF, Brawdy, West Wales, are staging a sponsored table tennis competition.

The Golden Garter Theatre Restaurant in Manchester is being taken over on Friday night for a Gala Cabaret, while in Doncaster a Charity Football Match and a "Bangers and Booze" evening will be held.

Fairs, fashion shows and coffee mornings will all be part of the mammoth effort of co-operation between spastics, their friends and the public, to make Spastics Week 1974 the most successful ever.

## Top Ten gift to Irene



Irene Brett, 17, of St. George's House for the Disabled, Harrogate, Yorkshire, is pictured riding a £50 tricycle presented to her from the Spastics Pool. It was handed over by Mr. Stephen Ellis, area supervisor of Top Ten Promotions.

Picture by courtesy of Harrogate Herald

## Daring duo's ducky idea

FRIENDS, Jack and John, took the plunge on freezing April Fool's Day straight into the watery depths of Bolton's Queen's Park duck pond.

It was no April Fool's jape, but a heroic money-raising bid for the local Spastics Society. Jack Taylor and John Neville had been bet by their friends in the local public house that they would not carry out their chilly swim among the ducks, but they did it in style. Jack stripped off, while John strode in fully clothed, and in the end they raised a total of £15.



## February holiday romance ends in April wedding

WHEN John Matthews went to Colwall Court, the holiday centre run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics, in February, he just had his mind set on enjoying a fortnight's holiday. Then he met night nurse Trudy Wirt. "Where have you been all my life?" he asked her, and her reply "Waiting for you!" was the start of a whirlwind courtship.

Their February romance blossomed into an April wedding and they were married at Hastings Register Office on Easter Saturday.

John had been living at Wakes Hall, the S.O.S. centre at Wakes Colne, for the past five years. Said Mrs. M. Chapleo, the Matron: "We sud-

denly got a phone call from him while he was away to say he was getting married. We were absolutely delighted. He is the first Wakes Hall resident to get married."

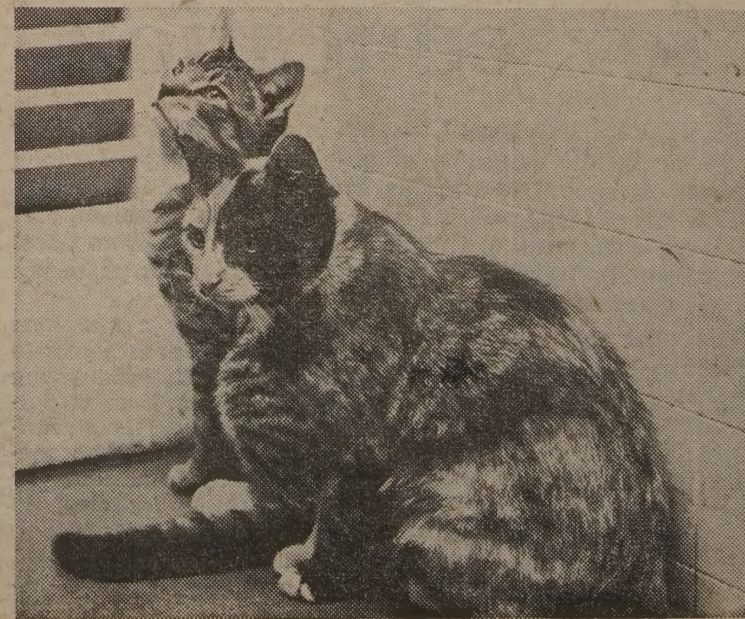
A few days before he left Wakes Hall for the last time, there was a party to celebrate the engagement, and John gave a speech in which he spoke of the happy time he had had there.

Among the wedding presents was a "Teasmade" from the S.O.S.

Now he and Trudy are living in Hastings in Trudy's house with three of the five children of her first marriage.

Picture of bride and groom at the Wakes Hall party by courtesy of Essex County Newspapers Ltd.

Pictured below are the Charitcats again—the R.S.P.C.A. strays who have joined The Spastics Society's staff.





## Cumbria Society has a new name but old spirit of service

**A**FTER 20 years a North Western local group has finished—and been reborn—with a new title under local government reform. The former Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society has been renamed the Cumbria Society. Mr. J. B. Jackson, general secretary of the Society, is determined that changes should not be in name only. He is organising a widespread publicity campaign to find not only people who can give help, but those who need help.

The Society's welfare officer, Mrs. Lesley Firth, has discovered more than 50 previously unknown spastics in less than a year.

A mother of a 13-year-old spastic boy said she had never known that there was an organisation to help her.

"This kind of failure of communication must not be allowed to occur again," said Mr. Jackson. "Of course, finding new cases means that more money is needed and we must form new branches throughout the area. Without the marvellous efforts of our voluntary helpers, nothing could be done for Cumbrian spastics."

### Enthusiasm

The change in name coincides with a new wave of enthusiasm for the work of the Society in Cumbria, with two new branches formed and open meetings planned in other towns in the new county. Mr. Jackson is involved in speaking engagements throughout the new county, and said: "It is essential that the public KNOW what the problems are and what the needs are. Everyone cares, but it is only by getting the facts over to people

that the caring can be turned into practical help."

The Society plans to celebrate its 21st birthday this year with new achievements.

## He sells tickets wherever he goes

**M**R. John Bonser, aged 67, of Victoria Park, Manchester, has sold over £100 worth of raffle tickets for the Manchester Spastics Society.

He tells us that these were sold "on land, sea and air," as some were bought on a boat cruise given by a disabled club, "The Good Companions," of which Mr. Bonser is a member, and others during a 'plane trip with the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Mr. Bonser has set up a record for the number of tickets sold in the Manchester area.



## W.I. members urged to extend work with handicapped

**T**HE popular image of Women's Institutes is one of "Jam and Jerusalem," and jolly grandmothers with large bosoms presiding over stalls of home-made goodies at Church fetes. The National Federation of Women's Institutes has around half a million members and when they are not deep in preserves they can be a powerhouse of energy directed at giving a hand to a wide variety of social problems.

In London recently members from all over the country met for a day-long conference to discuss working with the handicapped and, in particular, the setting up of special Women's Institutes in hospitals and homes.

First they were addressed by Dr. Werner Schutt, neuro-paediatrician with overall concern for the handicapped at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Bristol. His subject was "Working with Handi-

capped People," and he spoke in detail on just what was meant by the term handicapped and what hospitals and institutions were aiming for when they cared for them.

He said: "The incidence of handicap is very common and very frequent. He pointed out that the greater number stayed within their family, but inevitably some went into some kind of institution. Then the situation arose of making their lives acceptable to them as much as to society generally. Medical and psychiatric treatment was geared to rehabilitation in order that as many as possible could be re-integrated into society. He pointed out the enormous number of problems, such as the economic one, which made this work difficult. He briefly touched on people's attitudes to the handicapped, and how understanding of their problems dispersed initial fears.

It was then the turn of the delegates to speak. Some had experience of social clubs which were not fully constituted W.I.'s, but more a social gathering which male patients were welcome to attend. Others ran W.I.'s on the same lines as any other with affiliation to the National Federation.

The conference concluded that W.I. members should be encouraged to expand their work in this special field.

### Jayne wants a friend by post

**M**ISS Jayne Reynolds, 21, from the Society's Daresbury Hall Residential Centre near Warrington, Lancashire, would like a male pen-friend, aged about 22 or 23, preferably from Wales.

Miss Reynolds is confined to a wheelchair and her home is in Wolverhampton. She is interested in singing and musical instruments, and has her own guitar.

A sponsored cycle ride from Kew Bridge to Brighton was held by five members of the Sixth Form Charity Committee of John Kelly Boys' School last month. The event brought in more than £30 for spastic children.

Picture above shows the course of Hereward College, the informal meeting place for staff and students.

women of average and above ability into employment or to ordinary colleges, polytechnics and universities.

A foundation course provides opportunities for assessment and for the development of the maximum degree of independence. Four students have now proceeded to higher education and a further eight have completed their applications for entry to college or university in September 1974. Others have returned to ordinary further education to complete courses or have secured jobs for themselves.

Full details about the college and the range of courses can be obtained by writing direct to the Principal, Hereward College, Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Coventry, CV4 9SW.



## Another chance for education

**H**ERWARD College, Coventry, is a residential college for the further education of physically handicapped young people. It opened to students from all parts of the country in September 1971, and was established with national support from the Department of Education and Science and from Local Education Authorities to fill a gap in provision for physically handicapped school leavers.

A fundamental aim of the college is to assist each student to achieve a high level of competence and independence. The college also undertakes research into the educational problems presented by physically handicapped students and organise short courses and conferences.

The college will, in future,

be able to offer a maximum of 40 to 50 places each year to physically handicapped young men and women. Courses pursued are similar to those provided in technical colleges generally to prepare students for employment or for entry to more advanced courses.

One of the college's main roles is to bridge physically handicapped young men and

## Handy hints from the power people

**T**HE Electricity Council and the British Gas Corporation have both recently issued booklets on special aids for disabled people.

The sophisticated Possum-type equipment is, of course, well-known for the independence it can bring to the severely handicapped, but there are also many minor adaptations which can be made to household gadgets, thus making life easier for people not disabled enough to qualify for Possum.

Split-level cookers are a boon to those in wheelchairs, while most standard cookers and water heaters can be fitted with taps that are easier to grasp than the normal kind. There is also a wide variety of on-off switches available for electrical equipment.

### Lights

For instance, the standard light switch can be replaced by large "rockers" which require very little pressure and can be operated by a walking-stick, elbow or knee. Another type which works by the nearest touch on a large square plate has a light which glows to indicate when the appliance is turned on.

People with poor finger co-ordination can be helped by the large rings which can be fitted to any pull-cord switch, and by 13-amp plugs which have easily-grasped loop handles.

These booklets on aids for the disabled should be obtainable from most gas and electricity showrooms.

Bomb scares in the city of Peterborough forced Peterborough and District Spastics Society to cancel its New Year's Eve annual draw and dance. Finally, last month the draw was made by Mr. Cyril Cattell, The Spastics Society's Eastern Senior Regional Officer. Part of the proceeds will go to help furnish six flats at the Cresset.

Said Peterborough's Chairman, Mr. Joe Pearlson: "We were very disappointed the New Year draw and dance had to be cancelled, but we hope we will be luckier next year. Anyway, we've planned another draw and dance for next New Year's Eve."

After the draw, instead of a dance, members heard Mr. Cattell give a talk on the work of the Society.

Picture above: Mr. Cattell gives the thumbs up as he makes the draw, watched by Society members, including Mr. Joe Pearlson.

Picture by courtesy of Peterborough Evening Telegraph



A couple who met at the Society's Wilfred Pickles School, Duddington, Lincolnshire, when they were seven, have married at the Methodist Church Ramsey St. Mary, Huntingdon.

Brenda Sallabank and George Isle, both 23, have been engaged since October 1972. They were able to get married only when a room became available at Amer-shall House, a centre for the physically handicapped near Doncaster.

Picture shows George and Brenda with relatives after the wedding ceremony.

Picture by courtesy of Peterborough Evening Telegraph

## All about your tax problems

**A**N information circular on "The Income Tax Position of Disabled People" has been issued by the Central Council for the Disabled. This includes some useful tips about such matters as the disabled persons' vehicle maintenance grant, additional personal allowances and relief for expenses incurred in the course of employment or business.

The leaflet, costing 5p, can be obtained from the Central Council for the Disabled, 34, Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PE.



# Transformation scene: From an old barn . . .



## The pictures

PICTURE, left, shows the near-derelict farm building which was transformed by generous Christopher and Amanda Robinson, of Bures, Suffolk, into the main hall of the activity centre shown below. Their architect, Mr. Ronald Geary, of Dedham, Essex, threw himself into the project with enthusiasm to ensure that Ferriers Barn would not only be a model of good design for the disabled—every part of it is accessible to the wheelchair bound—but would retain its country charm. Picture, right, shows Amanda, the young wife and mother of four, who decided she “wanted to do something to help the handicapped,” and at the bottom of the page is an exterior view of Ferriers Barn which has brought a new dimension to the lives of disabled young people in the area.

The pictures are by Anthony Stamp, one of the friends of Amanda and Christopher, who are using their skills to help the Ferriers project. In Mr. Stamp's case it is with his talent as a photographer.



. . . to this exciting centre

## They backed vision with generosity

*Spastics News meets a couple who  
‘wanted to do something to help’*

AMANDA Robinson doesn't fit into the conventional image of the “do gooder,” “the Lady Bountiful” or “the dedicated charity worker.” She would laugh a lot if you called her any of these things, and her husband Christopher would be rather cross if anybody suggested that he and Amanda had done something rather special and fine for the handicapped young people. who bless the day that Mr. and Mrs. Robinson decided that “they would like to do something to help.”

What they did was to convert a row of near-derelict farm buildings at their home at Bures, on the beautiful Essex-Suffolk borders, into Ferriers Barn, an activity centre for the handicapped of the district and their friends.

It is an exciting place where people can come and learn pottery if they have a mind, listen to music, cook, learn to draw and paint, play table tennis or something less strenuous, do a bit of gardening, or simply sit around relaxing in a building which is as interesting to look at as it is exciting in its conception.

### Beamed hall

Ferriers Barn has a central hall which is 60 ft. long with a high vaulted and beamed ceiling, and a wall of windows looking out on to the “Constable country” landscape. There is a wide welcoming reception area, and a big kitchen where every piece of furniture and equipment is designed to allow ease of use by people in wheelchairs.

A centre like this costs a lot of money; how much I don't know, because Amanda and Christopher would not tell me. In fact, they very unwillingly admit that they paid for it at all, and it was only when I pointed out that the fact had

to be reported because otherwise the story would be incomplete, that it was diffidently admitted that their own money had been used to convert the old buildings and surroundings into a centre of such character and charm.

### It's all ‘us’

There is nothing institutional about Ferriers Barn. “The basic philosophy is that it is a do-it-yourself place, not one where we organise things for the people coming here,” explains Amanda. “It is not ‘them and us.’ We want the disabled and their friends to decide what they want to do themselves. We have a discussion, they decide what they want, and I am here to write letters and find instructors.

“We want them to feel that

they are part of Ferriers, and it is up to them whether we succeed or not, so everything is not handed to them on a plate, fully organised and arranged. It's their place, not ours.”

How did Ferriers happen? Amanda says deprecatingly and rather vaguely: “I always felt I wanted to do something for other people, and there didn't seem to be anywhere around here accessible to young people in wheelchairs. I felt that, given a little help and opportunity, there were so many things they could do to help them really enjoy life. We had the buildings and the space, and the idea just grew.”

Christopher tells a slightly different story. He told me that Amanda was connected with a youth club which decided to bring in disabled youngsters, too. But, he says, the disabled were treated like second class citizens and given a room in the youth club as a kind of ghetto for the handicapped. They were there on sufferance; they were not accepted.

### Conversion

“We had the barn here which was not being used except to shelter our donkeys, and we wondered if it could be con-

verted into an activity centre. We put our heads together and thought we couldn't ask people to subscribe to the scheme as it stood, so we decided to put the house in order first. We got in estimates, decided to put a certain amount of money up and, with the help of voluntary help and donations and gifts of materials, the job was done.

### The money?

“What that money amounted to doesn't matter. It doesn't matter what people give, it is the giving that is important. We have just had an anonymous donation of £200, and the gift of £8.50 from my old nanny to buy a kettle for the centre. Both donations are equally valuable and important to us.”

The Robinsons are grateful to everyone who has helped. To the farmer who cuts the grass in the surrounding field for them, to the Round Table which donated the heating system, to the volunteers who come along to help and teach, to the friend in the village who invited the handicapped to use his heated swimming pool, to the man who gave them the expensive ceramic tiled floor, to Essex County Council which has given a £100 grant and helps with instructors, to

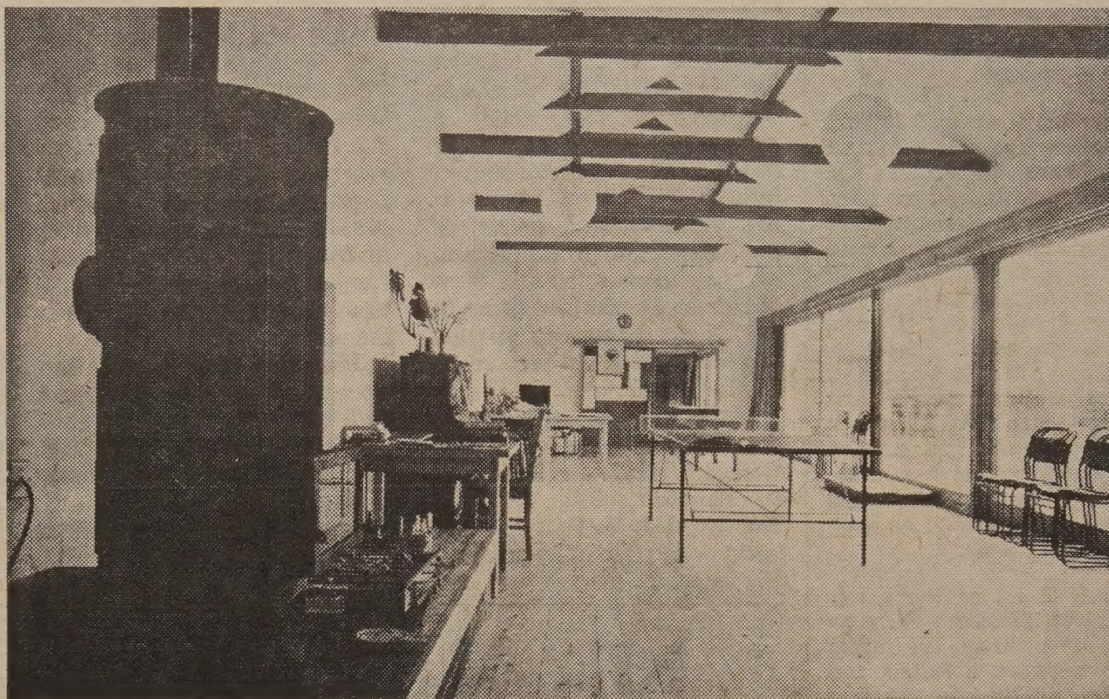
Suffolk County Council which helps with transport . . . The list of well-wishers could go on, because once the original idea was off the ground and the need could be seen, then, says Amanda, “we found nothing but kindness and co-operation.”

Amanda and Christopher are determined that everything connected with Ferriers Barn must be “of the highest possible standard.” Only the best is good enough for the handicapped, and their friends who come there, and this means Habitat china, the best kitchen accessories and equipment, the best music, the best instructors. There is no corner cutting on quality.

### Funds

Now that the centre is in operation, and has been registered as a charity, the serious work of fund-raising to meet running costs is well under way, and obviously, with a place that will cost at least £2,000 a year to operate, an adequate flow of cash must be forthcoming.

Raising the money won't be a “them and us” business either. The handicapped members are as conscious of the need for income as the Robinsons, and already plans are



being made for events this summer. “If they want more, they will have to raise the money themselves,” says Amanda with a twinkle. “After all, it's their centre, not ours.”

Among the handicapped people coming to Ferriers Barn are spastics from nearly residential centres run by The Spastics Society, Oakwood and Drummonds, and Wakes Hall, the home run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics. For a consumer reaction to this new idea to bring enjoyment to the lives of the disabled in the area, I spoke to Ken Smith, a spastic resident at Oakwood. He said:

“It is a very interesting place, and I thoroughly enjoy coming here. We are forming ourselves into groups to get things organised, such as discotheque evenings, so that local people will be involved. Did you know that the idea here is that we should run the place ourselves?”

I said I did. It seems that Amanda and Christopher have got their idea across.

## How Beauty brings home the bacon

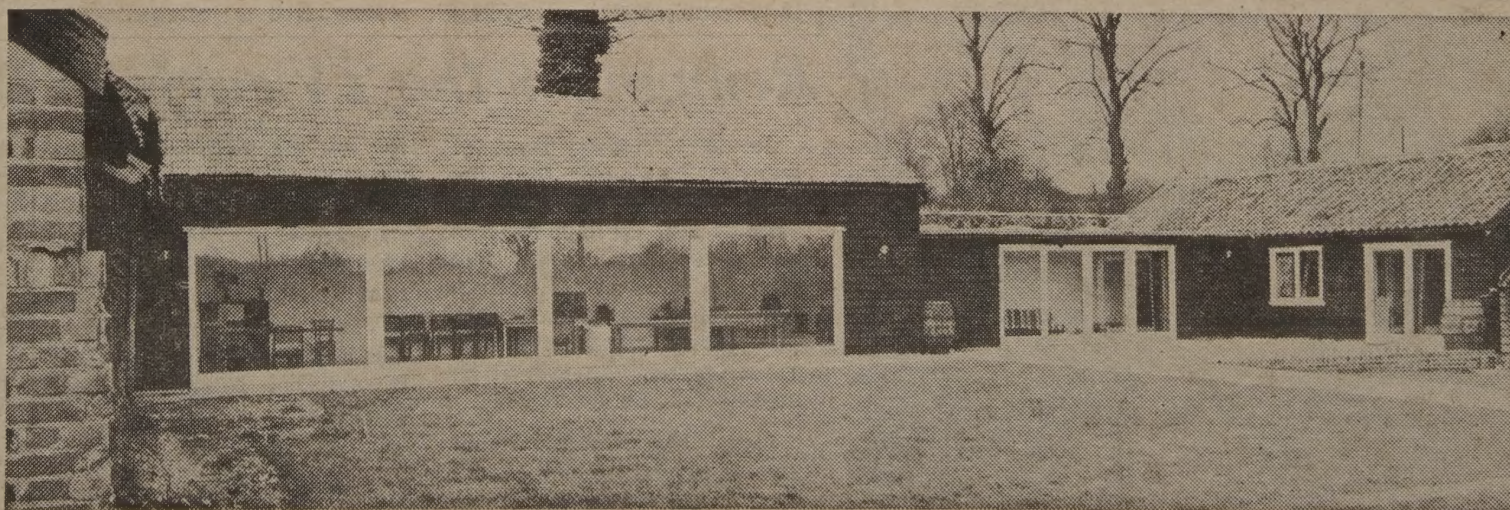
THE most celebrated sow in all Shropshire, “Beauty,” the fund-raising pig belonging to Shropshire Spastics Society, has made £100 in the last year. “Beauty,” who is cared for by George Pearce at Sycamore House, Nesscliffe, does it all by piggie production. She has just successfully raised 11 more piglets, her third litter this year.

This super-mum of the sty has now had a total of 38 piglets in the last 12 months and, despite the rising cost in pig food, the Shropshire Spastics Society is on to a winner with beauty.

THE National Council for Civil Liberties is appealing for new members. Anybody interested in joining this organisation is invited to contact Lyndis Court-Hampton, NCCL, 186 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X 9DE.

### FOR SALE

Bedford, Ambulance Conversion on CAL chassis, 1967 (E registration). Hydraulic Tail Lift with extended platform, raised roof with extra windows. Interior height 5'1", mileage 40,000, priced £375. Takes 4 wheelchairs. Mrs. Ronald, Red Cross Disabled Club, Lychill, Holton, Oxford. Wheatley 2860.





## 'Forgotten ones' in hospital need your friendship

THE Spastics Society has given its active and positive support to an exciting project which is to take place in various large subnormality hospitals this summer. Despite energetic and continued efforts by the Society, there are still many spastics languishing in long-stay hospitals unnecessarily—a sad commentary on the country's neglect of thousands of people . . . people who are condemned through lack of public interest to a life of nothingness.

The idea for the new project originated in an American event known as "One-to-One" Day. Last summer, Nigel Evans, who is undertaking research into ideas in Health Education as part of a Churchill Fellowship, visited New York to see the scheme for himself. He was so impressed by the idea that since his return he has been gathering support for it in this country.

He recognises that the problems of many of the patients in long-stay subnormality hospitals cannot be solved through statutory provision alone. The outstanding need of these "forgotten people" is some contact with other human beings and the opportunity to develop personal relationships. The simple official solution of increasing staff/patients ratios does not necessarily result in the staff having more time to provide the stimulation and variety of activity that the patients require. This is due, in part, to the restrictions of a hospital regime.

### Volunteers

This is where "One-to-One" comes in. The idea is to organise a mass of volunteers to spend a day in a hospital on a one-to-one basis; that is, each patient will be paired-off with a volunteer for the whole day. They will enjoy games, entertainments and amusements to help build up individual personal relationships. Naturally, it is hoped that many of the volunteers will continue the friendship afterwards.

The idea has met with widespread support from other charities, including the National Association for Mental Health, the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, the National Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospitals, and Make Children Happy. A pilot scheme is to be launched on Saturday, June 29th, and so far four hospitals have agreed to take part. These are St. Margaret's Birmingham; Prudhoe, near Newcastle; The Ida Darwin, Fulbourn, near Cambridge, and Harperbury, near Radlett, Hertfordshire.

The Society will be informing all local groups in the various areas of ways in which they can help to make the pilot scheme a success. This is yet another project that should capture the imagination and enthusiasm of many young people. A full-time organiser has also been appointed to co-ordinate the preparations at each hospital and to provide advice. Jane Carver used to be Senior Volunteer Director at Community Service Volun-

teers and so is experienced in organising large numbers of volunteers. She is based at "One-to-One," 17 Pembridge Square, London, W2 4EP; telephone 01-229 8941.

It is vital to show that both staff and volunteers can, and should, have important and mutually interdependent roles in the lives of patients. An organised and carefully planned introduction to the situation in long-stay hospitals can be guaranteed through "One-to-One," to the benefit of all involved. So often in the past a volunteer who has taken a long time to muster up the courage to enter a hospital has received a slight rebuff that has made him shrug his shoulders and disappear. This should be avoided in "One-to-One."

Already a lot of thought is being given to future "One-to-One" events. Once the initial barrier between hospitals and the community is broken down, it is hoped that subsequent "One-to-One" events will take place in local parks, so that the patients will feel part of the community, rather than shut away from it. With the support of the public and the encouragement of the many charities involved, ultimately an event similar to the one held in New York last summer is envisaged. For a day, Central Park, New York, was packed with 20,000 volunteers and 20,000 partners, and for once all their lives meant something.

**Graham D. Burn**



## Testing time for the Newton E

The Newton E wheelchair produced at The Spastics Society's Meadway Works in Birmingham can reach a maximum speed of four m.p.h., climb a one-in-four hill, and hold on a one-in-five gradient, and meets all the Department of Health weight requirements. Now Meadway Works is waiting to see if the chair can go one better — and be prescribed by the Department.

Up to now the Department has refused to prescribe any models of electric wheelchairs on various safety grounds. The Newton E is to go for testing by the Department this month.

Said Mr. R. Miller, General Manager of Meadway: "We don't know how long the Department will take over the testing, but we do know that the chair meets all their requirements. It will be a real breakthrough for us here at Meadway, and for handicapped people everywhere, if this chair is prescribed for them."

The two-gear chair has been designed and developed by Mr. Harold Cragg, the factory manager, over the last two years. There have been more than 2,000 miles of test drives and this year he hopes to see 400 completed for the market. Orders have already

been received from as far as Australia, France, Sweden and the United States. Production will have to be stepped up in order to meet the demands.

The chair, which goes over a variety of surfaces both indoors and outside, has a maximum range of eight miles on its batteries.

Our pictures show Mr. Miller taking himself for a ride in the Meadway "super-chair," accompanied by tool room manager Chris Edwards.

Picture by courtesy of The Birmingham Post

## North-East reports year of good progress

TWO hundred delegates comprising parents, group members, handicapped people and medical and social workers, converged on the spa town of Harrogate to attend the North-East Regional A.G.M. and Conference which was held at the Crown Hotel on April 21st. They came from as far apart as Berwick - upon - Tweed and Sheffield.

In his report the Chairman

of the Regional Co-ordinating Committee, Mr. L. P. Day, gave a summary of developments which had taken place in the Region during the past year, which included:

Extensions to the Teesside Spastics Treatment Unit to provide a nursery class and improved physiotherapy facilities.

The rapid growth in two years of the Sheffield Work Centre, where 50 workers are now employed.

The start of building work on extensions to the Sunderland Work Centre which, on completion, will cater for 70 workers.

The opening of the new Percy Hedley Work Centre at Newcastle - upon - Tyne, which will accommodate 100 workers.

The benefits derived by groups from the regional fund which had provided financial aid where most needed.

The search for suitable properties for use as charity gift shops continued unabated. At present shops were trading at Redcar, Barnsley, Halifax, Keighley, Castleford and Sunderland, and it was likely

that shops would be opened in the near future at Bingley, Leeds, Spennymoor and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

He referred to the sweeping changes affecting local government from April 1st which had meant a great deal of work in re-shaping group boundaries so that, as far as possible, one group deals with one authority in the matters of education and personal services — the two functions of greatest concern to local groups. The question of involving youth in the work of groups had received consideration from time to time and, whilst it was a difficult problem to which an answer had yet to be found, groups should continue to encourage the recruitment of young people with a view to involving them in their activities and, later on, in committee work.

The Chairman congratulated all groups in the Region for the services they were providing, and thanked all those who had worked so hard during the past year to ensure that spastics were helped to the best of our ability.

As in the past, the conference endeavoured to include in the

## Opening of Shropshire's new centre

IN 1971 the Shropshire Spastics Society conceived the idea of building a centre, and at last, after three years of fund-raising, the idea has become a reality. With the end of the Easter holiday, the £52,000 day centre opened its doors to the first children.

Built in the grounds of the Robert Clive School, Monkmoor, the centre will take 40 children with severe mental and physical handicaps from all over Shropshire.

The Shropshire Society's publicity officer, Mr. Ted Cowen, said: "The children who will be using the centre lead very barren lives at home at present, and it means their parents' lives are also very restricted. I am certain the opening of the centre will mean the children will be helped to get as much out of life as possible and give their parents some time for relaxation."

It had originally been hoped the centre would be used by under-school age children, but the Shropshire Education Authority, which will be administering the centre, have ruled that entry will be restricted to school age.

The Society was determined to raise as much money in the county as possible and, after three years of hard slog, raised over £20,000. The Midlands Regional Co-ordinating Committee contributed £3,000 in recognition of the local effort, which included a county door knock organised by Jo Bradley, a retired Local Appeals Officer now living in Shropshire.

programme subjects affecting not only the young but the older spastic with the sole object of providing variety and something of interest to all.

At the morning session, Mr. Roger M. Jefcoate, who specialises in electronic equipment for the severely disabled, coupled his talk with a demonstration of some of his inventions, illustrated with slides.

After the break for lunch, during which group members from various parts of the Region had the opportunity to meet and exchange news and views, Dr. Grace Woods, Consultant Paediatrician at Searcroft Hospital, Leeds, talked to the audience and illustrated with slides the experiments being carried out by her team in an effort to simulate the normal conditions of play and stimulation which are experienced by unhandicapped children.

The last speaker at the afternoon session was Mr. J. Parkinson, General Manager of The Spastics Society's Lancaster Training Centre, who spoke about some of the problems faced by the severely handicapped when training for a job in open employment.

**Roland Whyte**

## Remember the TV curfew?

In the February issue of Spastics News we told the story of a bright idea by Preston and District Spastics Group for filling in the time after the 10.30 p.m. TV close-down during the power crisis. The group asked people to make "gonks" for sale at its annual Fair in the Spring.

Over 100 "gonks" were sent in as the result of the appeal and young visitors to

the fair are pictured showing off some of the toys.

The first prize of a cassette recorder went to Mrs. Martina Worswick of Penwortham, near Preston.

There were many other side-shows at the fair, which is expected to have raised £2,000.

Picture by courtesy of Lancashire Evening Post

BOURNEMOUTH, Poole and District Spastics Society still has vacancies at its holiday caravans as follows:

Rockley Sands, Poole: May and June, 27th July for one week, 1st August for one week.

Isle of Wight: June 22nd for one week, 20th July to 10th August (owing to cancellation).

Please contact Mrs. O. M. Nelson, Group Secretary, Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society, Langside School, Langside Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 5BN.





## Splashes from the Spastics Pool

### Viva Jayne

Attractive 24-year-old Jayne Ball, Spastics Charm Girl of the Year, received her prize of a Vauxhall Viva from John Hanson. Jayne, of Eastbourne, also wins a one week holiday for two at Pontin's Holiday Centre in Blackpool. The presentation is pictured left.

Arrangements for the presentation, which took place at the Dental Estimates Board, Compton Place Road, Eastbourne, were made by area supervisor SS63 John Otto. The Company expresses its gratitude to Mr. A. Brown-John, O.B.E., for his assistance.

### NEW CAR FOR BRIGHTON MAN



Congratulations to Mr. Fred Matthewman of Sunninghill Avenue, Brighton, as he receives the keys of his new Vauxhall Victor car from writer and television personality Alan Melville. From left to right: Ray Tiltman of Tates Garage, Portslade, Alan Melville, Fred Matthewman, and area representative SS60 Mr. James McMahon.



A happy day for Mr. and Mrs. G. Jessop of Northorpe Lane, Mirfield, as they take delivery of their new Vauxhall Viva car at Rowland Winn (Batley) Ltd. The keys were presented by professional wrestler Gwynn Davies. Also pictured is Mr. B. McDonald, area representative.



A happy day, too, for Mrs. M. Elsworth of Chestnut House, Bootle, as goalkeeper Gordon West hands over the keys to a brand new Vauxhall Viva.

For the first time since their appointment, the six Regional Managers had the opportunity of exchanging views over a period of two days spent at Westmorland House. The conference was called by Geoffrey Arter, director responsible for regional management, and was attended by seven head office personnel involved in sales and marketing.

Kenneth Long, managing director, welcomed the Regional Managers and expressed the hope that this would be the forerunner of regular get-togethers which would prove invaluable in plotting the future course of the Spastics Pool.

## Paris guide for disabled

**P**ROSPECTIVE travellers on the Continent this year may be interested to know that there is a tourist guide to Paris written specially for the disabled.

Subjects covered include access hints to the 30 most famous sights (the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame, etc.), details about 11 hotels, three hostels and two camping sites, where the disabled may stay, and a survey of rail, sea and air communications to Paris for the handicapped traveller.

The guide, called "Access in Paris," costs 50p and is available from the Paris Survey Project, 68B Castlebar Road, Ealing, London, W5.

# Midlands Conference looks at tomorrow's world

**T**HE Midlands Region of The Spastics Society held its Regional Conference at Leicester University on Sunday, 31st March, with the topical theme "The handicapped family in tomorrow's world." By 9.45 a.m. cars and coaches from places as far apart as Stoke-on-Trent, Grimsby, Hereford and Boston had begun to arrive, so that by the time coffee and biscuits had revived the travellers there were over 300 friends and relatives of spastics awaiting to listen to four speakers. They each spoke in their own lecture theatre and none had an audience of less than 50.

Mr. David Tombs, Director of Social Services for the new County of Hereford and Worcestershire, made many people sit up and think when he said he considered the new appointment of a Minister for the Handicapped should only be temporary. His argument

was that it was wrong for the handicapped to be treated differently to others, and that their problems should be looked after by the appropriate authority, whether at central or local government level.

Miss P. Greening, Director of Nursing Services for the city of Birmingham, outlined many of the problems which would have to be tackled and overcome in the future, with particular reference to the organization of the National Health Service and the creation of Regional Health Authorities, all of which would be taking place the following day.

She endorsed the idea of closer co-operation between those voluntary organisations which were competent to provide a useful service, but stressed the danger that all too frequently well meaning people could create additional work if they were not properly trained, or became too personally involved in the problems with which they were dealing.

Mr. Somerfield, Assistant Director of Education for

Special Services in Leicestershire, talked in detail about the future responsibilities of his Department, and reminded parents that his Department was still responsible for many handicapped teenagers from the age of 16 to 19, a fact which was not often realised.

### Simple aids

The fourth speaker was Mr. Roger Jefcoate, consultant assessor and lecturer on electronic aids for the disabled, who demonstrated many simple aids which were now available, and discussed problems with individual handicapped persons who were present.

The audiences returned to the Students' Union Refectory for refreshments and lunch, and to examine a detailed display of items provided by such organisations as Spastics Cards, Thorngrove Agricultural Centre, the Homework Section, Visiting Aids, Meadow Works, and outside organisations such as Andrew Maclaren with their

Baby and Major Buggies, A. C. Daniels with Amesbury Chairs, Galt and Company with toys for the handicapped, and, of particular interest, the Leicester Red Cross Toy Library which put on a first rate demonstration of suitable toys for handicapped children.

During lunch the Duke of Rutland, Vice-President of The Spastics Society and President of the Nottingham Friends of Spastics Society, joined the gathering and afterwards took over as Chairman for the Forum of all the speakers, plus Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society. For the next hour a number of questions were put which created discussion and interest.

The Duke of Rutland, who is intimately concerned with local authority changes in Leicestershire, gave his own views in summing up, and Mr. Mayers, Chairman of the Nottingham Group, proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and organisers of the Conference.

Mike Venables

# Charities will be sacrificial cows -Director

**T**HE Chancellor of the Exchequer's suggestion that there were substantial reliefs for charities in his recent Budget was "downright rubbish." Instead it was a "Black Budget for charities."

This was the viewpoint of The Spastics Society aired by its Director, Mr. James Loring, when he addressed the Midlands Regional Conference.

He said that the direct effect of the recent Budget measures and proposals would cost The Spastics Society close on £100,000 in a full year. And that, in addition, the increase in pool betting duty on charitable pools could be catastrophic and contribute to a breakdown in some services.

Much play had been made of the fact that equipment for the disabled was now zero rated for Value Added Tax. However, while this concession was to be warmly welcomed, it was only of a minor nature. The failure to zero rate charitable activi-

ties, and to place charities on the same footing as local authorities was a very great disappointment. Charities, too served the community, but had to pay VAT for this privilege! Mr. Loring pointed out that the Chancellor spoke of the need for the British to make some sacrifices for the survival of their way of life, but that "he omitted to mention that charities will be one of the sacrificial cows."

He explained that even prior to the Budget the Society was faced with a 42 per cent increase in the running costs of its schools and centres. And he declared that there was little point in the Prime Minister appointing a Minister for the Disabled if Budgetary measures taken by his Chancellor of the Exchequer bankrupted charities.

These measures would affect adversely not only The Spastics Society, but its 180 affiliated Local Groups throughout England and Wales.





Above and left: The workshop provides a wide variety of employment. Right: The M.S.A. magazine "The Orbit," in preparation.



Pictures: right: The industry b of further relaxation



## Seventh award for 'Like Other People'

THE film which brought home the truth about the sexual and emotional needs of the handicapped to film audiences throughout the world, "Like Other People," has won yet another top award, its seventh.

Before a packed National Film Theatre, the film's director, Paul Morrison, was given the prestigious John Grierson award.

The film by Kestrel was based on a brief by James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, sponsored by the Mental Health Film Council and production costs of the film, starring two spastics, were largely borne by the Society.

The award, in the shape of a bust of John Grierson, a famous documentary film maker, was presented by a friend of his, Mr. Basil Wright. The bust was sculptured by Ivor Roberts-Jones, whose statue of Winston Churchill stands in Parliament Square.

The Minister of Arts, Mr. Hugh Jenkins, presented the Film Society of the Year awards, and the occasion is one of the highlights of the British Federation of Film Societies' year.

# The Midland Spastics Association brings new hope to 1,700 people

BIRMINGHAM may be Britain's "second city," but the Spastics Association which has its home there is second to none. The Midland Spastics Association is the focus of hope, opportunity and fulfilment for more than 1,700 spastics in Birmingham and its environs.

The M.S.A. grew out of the foresight and efforts of three prominent Midlands men, Mr. Bosworth-Smith, Mr. Paul Cadbury and Mr. Stephen Quayle.

The British Council for the Welfare of Spastics had been set up in London in 1946, but these three felt deeply that the Midlands needed an organisation of its own, and the following year the M.S.A. was an affiliated off-shoot. The B.C.W.S. continued; a National Spastics Society was also born, and in 1963 the two merged to become The Spastics Society as it is known today.

The M.S.A., however, has kept going and, although affiliated to the Society, has maintained its separate identity.

Its brief today is the same as it was on April 9, 1947, when it was formally set up—to provide every possible service for spastics in the five West Midlands counties.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham is the Patron, Mr. Cadbury is President, and Mr. Quayle is a member of the M.S.A. Council.

### In suburb

The M.S.A. has its headquarters in a quiet road in Harborne, a suburb of comfortable homes in the city.

Imbued with the driving force of pioneering spirit, the Association immediately launched itself into a staggeringly ambitious project—the first day school for spastics. It was named Carlson House after an American doctor who had paid them a visit. Dr. Earl Carlson was himself a spastic, and a proof of just what could be achieved by those who were all too often consigned to insti-

tutions and forgotten because they were ineducable.

Carlson House stands next to the M.S.A., a comfortable spacious building which, with its stable block now converted into a physiotherapy unit, reflects the quiet prosperity of the Edwardian age. It opened in September, 1948, with Miss Christine Woodall, later to be warden at Ponds, now the Society's Princess Marina Centre, as headmistress. For many years it was the Association's responsibility, but it is now administered by the education authority.

In 1950 Mavis Barrett joined the M.S.A. She had just gained her degree from Birmingham University and came "for a year to gain experience." Nearly a quarter of a century later she is still there.

### Building

"Everything was new and it was intensely interesting building something up from absolutely nothing. We were creating the whole time and it was pioneering work right up until a few years ago," she recalled. Now senior welfare officers find the emphasis these days is on maintaining, and expansion is at a slower rate. "The more we worked the more the Association evolved facilities."

Of the 1,700 spastics in the area, there are about 1,100 registered on the books. Those that require it are visited regularly. "The visiting side is routine—we call about once a year, but they can get in touch whenever they want to. "It's important because although a lot of the problems may seem on the surface mundane, they can be basically very important to spastics and their families. We try first and foremost to ensure that they get the kind of statutory help to which they are entitled."

For years the M.S.A. strived to provide the facilities that the local authorities either did

not or could not, such as a work centre, evening clubs for teenagers and adults, and a nursery. Nowadays much of that pressure has been removed as the local authority have moved in to set up hostels, and day centres for physically handicapped children, and so the M.S.A. has closed down some of theirs. The work centre which employs 50 adult spastics has flourished and expanded from a small hut to a large purpose built centre.

Mrs. Barrett recalled the "Old Hut" days affectionately as she looked round the new centre. "We moved into this in 1960 and many of the workers from the old hut days are still with us. We didn't imagine this building when we started—it's something we've created and we are very proud of it."

### Personalities

The work centre houses a wide range of personalities, Norman and John are among the long-standing workers, Charlie is a red hot Socialist, and 17-year-old Elizabeth, born in Belfast, is there because a bomb exploded at the garden gate. A refugee from the violence of her home town, she wrote a piece for "The Orbit," the M.S.A. quarterly. "Coming to England has changed my life completely. I can't tell you what it is like to sleep peacefully at night without having to listen to explosions, shooting and bombs going off."

They are involved in a wide variety of work from printing to making rustic furniture for the garden. Some prefer sticking to a task, while others enjoy switching from one to another. A small shop operates to swell the funds.

Peter Barrett, the M.S.A. secretary, who joined through learning of it from his wife, explained: "It costs between £24,000 and £25,000 to run the service—and that is without the school. All that money has to be raised voluntarily with some grant aid from local authorities." He praised the voluntary helpers without which the M.S.A. could not reach its target.

"There have been tremendous changes since the M.S.A. started, but there is still an immense amount to be done in educating the public in general, and there is still a massive amount to be done in helping

the handic... am handica... polio when... was none o... ren that th... M.S.A. has... we've achie... hasn't been... time to d... ments that

The brigh... ing is busy... for a band... ers, among... ers, come... classes. A... room house... now that... closed dow... used for fu

The stan... offers cereb... is somethin... House is ri... bers. Unli... among its p... is seen in... application,

## Help for Colwall

April Fool's Day was not devoted to jokes this year, and the Colwall Court M... mittee instead received some practical hel... That was its share of the proceeds from a... money for the holiday home run by the... for Spastics, and the Glynde Gap School Children.

Grouped for the presentation of the... go towards the home's general funds, are: Shepherd, Francis Matthews, Mrs. Dorée... man of the Ball Committee; Mr. Charles... of the Ball Committee; Mrs. Grace Green... mins, Chairman of the Colwall Court Mar... tee; Mr. Leslie Keep, Treasurer of the Co... agement Committee; Miss Jan Holdam... Mrs. Jean Crowther, and Mr. Jim Paddon... Glynde Gap Parent Teachers' Association



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ictures above and below, nt: The centre is a hive of industry by day and a focus for further education and relaxation by night.

## iation

handicapped. I know, as I handicapped myself. I had to when I was two and there was none of the care for children that there is now. The M.S.A. has still a lot to do, but we have achieved a lot and there hasn't been all that amount of time to develop the achievements that we have."

The bright new M.S.A. building is busy both day and night with a band of volunteer helpers, among them retired teachers, come in to give evening classes. A well-stocked library houses these classes and now that the nursery has been set down that, too, will be used for further education.

The standard of education it offers cerebral palsied children something of which Carlson House is rightly proud. It numbers University graduates among its pupils, but education seen in its widest possible application, not just academic.

## Wall Court

oted entirely to practical Court Management Committee help—£381.50 worth. s from a ball held to raise by the Stars Organisation School for Handicapped

of the cheque, which will nds, are: Mr. Ian Dawson, s, Dorcen Sansom, Chair- Charles Brookes, Treasurer e Green, Miss Peggy Cum- urt Management Commit- of the Colwall Court Man- olden, Mr. Alan Morton, Paddon, Chairman of the ocation.



The headmistress, Mrs. E. Marlow, talked of girls who come back to visit, bringing their babies with them. They have gone on from school to work and marriage as proof of the capabilities and independence they gained through the school. She is as proud of their achievements as she is of those with distinguished degrees.

Mrs. Marlow had never seen a spastic when she joined the staff of the newly opened school in 1948. She taught an infant class and, when Miss Woodall left, took over the headship. The continuity of keeping records and all kinds of data, she feels, is of immense importance.

She has 70 children in her charge, ranging in age from two-and-a-half to 16, and there is a high teacher-pupil ratio.

## Children

The school itself caters for 50 children, but there are two nursery classes of 10 children. Brenda Dunkinson's under-fives will all almost certainly go up to the school. These are the more physically handicapped children, while Mrs. M. McArdle's 10 will probably go on to ordinary infant schools.

The reason they are there is that though their physical disability is comparatively slight they have other specific problems.

One such pupil is the little Indian boy whose family speak no English at home. He has cerebral palsy and a foreign language to cope with.

"Priority was given to the very young with severe handicaps, but we felt increasingly that something must be done for those with minor handicaps and other problems, so we opened this nursery 15 years ago," said Mrs. Marlow.

## Operation

Mrs. Dunkinson's class are not fully mobile, and many of them have to undergo the hip widening operation to reduce the scissor spasm of their legs. "It's surprising how well they cope with the operation, really. Children are much more resilient than one first thinks about these things."

One of Mrs. Dunkinson's priorities is getting the children in the correct sitting position and out of nappies. "So many mothers keep their child-



ren in nappies far longer than necessary because they don't realise that they can be toilet trained. We teach them how to sit properly, because this is so important as they grow older. This is the kind of thing the mothers can watch for at home."

Great emphasis is placed on helping the children to intellectual as well as physical independence, and a comparatively early start is made in subjects such as reading.

"Where children are expected to go on to ordinary schools we try and ensure they can read. Otherwise, when they go up, teachers may not be able to give them such specialised help and they'll fall behind," Mrs. Marlow explained.

All the children have 20 minutes physiotherapy a day and the nursery classes all have a lie-down. The fact that the school operates from a 2-storey house is an added advantage because the simple task of negotiating the stairs is physiotherapy in itself.

Most of the physiotherapy is carried out in the stable block which adjoins the house by a covered way. Mrs. E. Millward, the head physiotherapist, who has been at the school for 14 years, works closely with Mrs. Marlow when it comes to timetables, so that the children get the maximum benefit.

She has two other physiotherapists, Mrs. E. Brown and Mrs. E. March, to help her.

## Classrooms

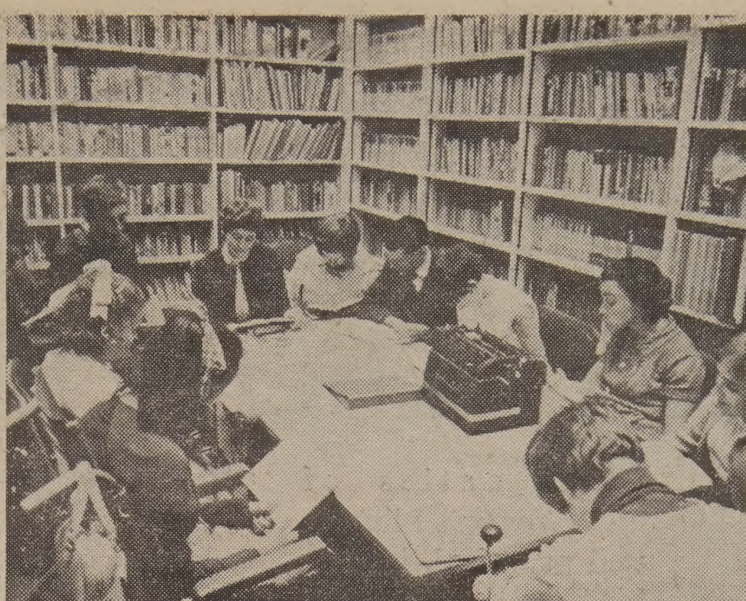
All the classrooms are brightly decorated and the school carpenter sees that desks are individually made to each pupil's requirements.

The grounds are ample enough to provide tarmac tracks for racing cycles, lawns for ball games and areas for sport. A neighbouring fox and squirrels provide a glimpse of wild life in the city.

Much has been done to change the face of the Edwardian villa, and a wide balcony opens from an upstairs classroom to add to the pupils' enjoyment of their lessons.

Although the school is independent, the M.S.A. joined with the Department of Education to make a grant for an extension. Called the senior unit, it is an informal classroom for 12 boys and girls ranging in age from 12 to 16.

Its aim is to help them to



Right: A scene from the workshop.

greater independence, and so there are private study bays along one side where pupils can work at typewriters or sewing. There is a small kitchen with sink and cooker where, under supervision, they can provide themselves with coffee and biscuits. Housemothers are on hand to help where necessary. Regularly the children make up a party or go to the cinema in Birmingham. They all have a wide variety of interests and some will go on to colleges for further training.

The pupils are confident and at ease meeting visitors, probably because their school draws study groups and people interested in cerebral palsy from all over the world.

The Midland Spastics Association and Carlson House School are a positive proof of the caring spirit of the Midlands.

Liz Cook

## Japanese visitors

A PARTY of 20 Japanese visitors interested in cerebral palsy, including spastics, doctors and social workers, made a point of seeing the Princess Marina Centre, the Buckinghamshire Residential Centre run by The Spastics Society, as part of their European Study Tour.

They came from Osaka and are seeing for themselves how the Western World cares for

its cerebral palsied. They spent an afternoon at the Princess Marina Centre, and the Warden, Mr. Cleaver, said: "They were very interested in what was going on, and had a jolly good look at everything — communication was through interpreters, and so they were keener to look and see for themselves than have to have things explained."

Picture by courtesy of Middlesex County Press



# I lost the wheelchair battle—and I'm glad

ONE step forward, two steps backward, and three steps to the side. No, this is not a commentary on "Come Dancing," but—well. I had better admit it—a true picture of the way I used to walk. I was known to friends as "Old Crabby," but the hideous truth took its cruel blow when, one day in a shop, I overheard myself being described as "the young lady who walks sideways." Slightly more stunned than amused, I sidled my way towards my invalid car, a little more enlightened about the image I presented to the world at large.

For numerous years I had imagined that I was as mobile as other handicapped people who, I knew, were coping adequately. Imagination can play tricks and lure a person up the rocky path of unreality. Sheer obstinacy spurred me on, although I preferred to think of this driving force as willpower—a "nicer" attribute—until circumstances forced me into the final surrender.

## Pick yourself up . . .

My right leg began to let me down so often that my theme tune could well have been "Pick yourself up, dust yourself down and start all over again." Persuasions from friends to see a consultant were wilfully ignored until many knocks and bruises later, I yielded. An X-ray revealed that I had developed osteo-arthritis in the hip through a bad walking habit and, in the blunt words of the consultant, I had "a hell of a problem." For a spastic with atresia in the arms to be told she must use crutches for the rest of her life, the prospect is foreboding, to say nothing of the onlooker when encountered by an apparition resembling a cross between a tortoise and an octopus. A few weeks was enough to realise that coping domestically and at work precariously balanced on crutches was grossly impractical.

The decision to start using a wheelchair might seem a retrograde step. Some years ago, I remember being horror-struck when a wheelchair was brought to convey me to a train at a busy station; the humiliation I felt at the very suggestion that I was unable to battle my way through the crowds. Using a wheelchair was far beneath my dignity—my friend and I nearly lost the train—and our tempers. Another friend described her shattered nerves at the sight of me crossing London's busy Oxford Street, losing a shoe in the process as vanity and obstinacy had conspired to persuade me that I could wear fashionable slip-on shoes. Alas, the "tripping" around turned out to be not so elegant. All this effort to stay on my feet was gradually draining every ounce of energy I had and I was, paradoxically, losing the battle for independence.

## Why I Felt Guilty

My capitulation to using a wheelchair was not the end of the battle. Whilst gaining the approval of the majority, consciousness of the attitude of a few—that I was giving in—engendered feelings of guilt and condemnation. Even the consultant seemed determined to help me to win the battle of the crutches, but eventually saw my problem in relation to daily living, and a wheelchair was ordered.

Day to day living has now been transferred beyond all expectation. I now glide from A to B with the greatest of ease and have energy for more important issues in life. I am still able to cook, and clean my flat, and it is much less tiring performing these tasks sitting down than expending much energy trying not to over-balance. Much the same can be said for social contacts. Communication with people became much easier because I was more relaxed and less afraid of the danger of landing sprawled at their feet.

Confidence in a disabled person will inevitably make for an easier relationship with the non-disabled community. I am becoming more and more convinced that we who are disabled should do everything within our power to present an acceptable image to the public if our desire is to be well integrated. If eating and drinking is our difficulty, special utensils are not to be spurned.

Ladies in wheelchairs can be encouraged that the present trend of fashion favours the chair-bound. Maxi skirts can look elegant without being a hindrance. Jeans and sweaters are acceptable almost anywhere in this age of informality. Even dainty shoes can be worn without criticism or the wearer looking foolish.

Far be it from me to advocate a mass retreat to wheelchairs, the medical profession might justifiably come down on me like a ton of bricks. I can but point out the advantages I have experienced, and try to relate my discovery in the past 18 months—that a tortoise with eyes glued to the ground sees very little of the world around, even though it might eventually win the race.

Merle Davies





Above: Miss Angela Nash has become an expert at making plastic "fantasy flowers," a job which requires artistic flair. Below: Mr. Charles Doe busies himself with matchboxes.

## Society stages gymkhana

DISABLED riders from all over the South East of England had their first major gymkhana at Seal in Kent on April 30. The gymkhana was organised by The Spastics Society and it is hoped to have a national event next year.

Only days after the competition had been announced there were team entries from the Thomas Delarue School and Dene Park.

Thomas Delarue School, in fact, entered two teams, and Coombe Farm and Dene Park each entered one team.

Schools and centres for the disabled entered teams of six riders with team leaders nominating individual riders for each event. There was a bending race, potato race, despatch race, bucket eliminator race, Chase-me-Charlie jumping race, obstacle race, and fancy dress parade.

In some cases pony leaders were allowed. Each team had three ponies for the duration of the gymkhana, and the fee of 50p per rider covered the hire of the ponies for the day.

The gymkhana took place as Spastics News went to Press, but a fuller report will appear in our next issue.

# Winning the battle for liberty

"THE antics of 'Women's Lib.' are well publicised, but behind the scenes, slowly and unobtrusively, handicapped people from all walks of life have been fighting their own particular battle for liberty."

These are the words of Mr. David Edwards in the 1973-74 handbook of the West Kent Spastics Society, an organisation dedicated to helping spastics overcome their disabilities, and take up

a "normal" and useful role in society.

The Society is a voluntary body, sited in Park Road, Bromley, and extending into North-West Kent.

When the centre opened 11 years ago, it accommodated only five trainees, but this figure has risen over the years to 30 adults, who are trained in various industrial processes, with a view to progression to a "normal, outside job" where possible.

The workshop, which was built and equipped by the Society, has a full-time manager, Mr. Stanley Mace, and two part-time assistants.

Mr. Mace, who lives at Orpington, was appointed manager of the centre when it first opened. At the time he had retired as manager of an engineering company, but had become bored after a couple of months' retirement.

## Nothing to do

The trainees who work under him at the centre vary both in age and degree of disability, and are brought to work from their homes by local authority ambulances.

Mr. Mace told me: "If there was no centre, the people working here would have nothing to do all day.



Above: Miss Marilyn Smith undertakes small assembly work, and picture below left, Miss Pam Brown concentrates on an intricate job.

"The centre really is a great thing, a place where they can all meet each other and have something of a social life."

As manager, it is Mr. Mace's job to contact firms with regard to sub-contracting work to the centre.

The type of operation undertaken at the centre includes making up boxes, packing goods, the assembly of nuts and bolts, and work with electric components.

One girl has now become highly skilled at making plastic "fantasy flowers," and a display company in London have placed orders for large numbers of these.

Free meals are provided by Holy Trinity Convent, and a rota of volunteers serve them at the centre. More volunteers are still needed.

However, the Society now face a number of problems with regard to the centre—basically financial.

"Although most firms pay the normal rate for work undertaken by the handicapped, they are obviously unable to work at the same speed as normal persons," said Mr. Mace.

With the cost of maintaining the centre rising every year, at present revenue from the work done is only about one-sixth of the total running costs.

## The costs

This means that the Society is heavily dependent on voluntary gifts. But these have been falling recently and the expense of running the centre last year was £1,000 more than the income of the Society. The Society have to raise £400 a month to keep the centre going.

The job which the Society does is a most urgent one, providing handicapped people not only with work, but also with "a way out" into the normal world. One can only hope that it will continue to function in the future.

As Mr. Edwards says: "We have broken out from the prison of ignorance and misunderstanding, which has held us for so long, into the limelight of public attention."

"... at last all handicapped people can claim a rightful place in society."

Article and pictures reproduced by courtesy of the Kentish Times.

## He thanks spastics for courage, harmony and humour

WE reported in the last issue of Spastics News that after almost six years as Warden of the Princess Marina Centre, Seer Green, Bucks, Mr. Sidney Cleaver was leaving in April to start a new life in New Zealand.

Before he left, Mr. Cleaver wrote to his local paper the Buckinghamshire Advertiser to "pay tribute to the very many people who support the centre in one or more of numerous ways."

### He went on:

"First of all, the two Friends organisations, The Friends of The Princess Marina Centre, and The Friends of the Spastics, whose devoted members work so tirelessly to provide and maintain the many additional facilities and amenities that have made, and will continue to make, the lives of the residents so much more richer and more meaningful. Their capacity for work on behalf of the spastics, backed up by the generosity of the public in South Bucks, and

elsewhere, has never ceased to amaze me.

"It has also been a moving experience for me to witness the devotion of so many other voluntary helpers; the kind folk who spend many hours patiently helping residents with their writing and studies; the visiting ministers and lay people who take turns to conduct morning prayers throughout the year; and those dedicated people who in all weathers ensure that those residents who wish to do so attend the church or chapel of their choice."

After paying tribute to various local organisations, Mr. Cleaver wrote about the residents of the centre, and concluded:

"Lastly, I must record my admiration for the 'family,' as

the residents are known, 54 severely physically handicapped men and women who have learned to live together in harmony in a way which I believe is an example to us all. To witness their courage and cheerfulness, and share their good humour, is a sobering experience for all thinking persons.

"I say goodbye with some sadness, but as a wiser, more tolerant and humbler person than when I came.

"To all those I have mentioned, and to the many anonymous donors, I wish to say thank you and God bless you."

The pupils of Meldreth Manor School received a delightful letter last month from a student in Tokyo. It was typed with his toes in Japanese and, fortunately, a translation was included. The writer of the letter, Hideaki Imai, told of his studies at Komei School for the physically handicapped. He also sent photographs of himself.



## New hostel at Portsmouth

PORTSMOUTH and District Spastics Society is co-operating with the city's Social Services Department in providing a purpose-built hostel for the handicapped. Financial aid will also be given by The Spastics Society.

The hostel will have 24 single rooms, grouped in blocks of six. Each block will have its own bathroom and lounge. The building has been designed so that dividing walls between some of the bedrooms can be removed in order to provide accommodation for married couples.

## Perhaps Marks and Spencer grew big by caring...

MARKS and Spencer must be one of the largest business concerns in the country, yet they still have time for the individual problems of their customers. Two years ago a spastic girl in Hertfordshire bought a pair of their vinyl booties, which she found more fashionable and comfortable for her mis-shapen feet than the surgical boots prescribed for her.

However, when they wore out and she went to replace them, she found that Marks and Spencer had discontinued the line. A friend wrote to their head office about the problem and although none of their branches still stocked this type of footwear, the firm went to a great deal of trouble to contact the manufacturer. They were able to supply the booties and the spastic girl can walk in comfort once again.



A disturbing story arrived at Spastics News from a local voluntary group member who met a spastic he calls "K" while visiting a subnormality hospital. "K" has lived at the hospital for 40 years, and in the article below, the group member—who naturally must remain anonymous—asks if the decision to send him there was the right one? And are there other spastics who are wrongly assessed as subnormal? How many able-bodied "normal" people could answer typical assessment panel questions? The Spastics Society decided to find out. Read about "K," then about our mini survey on the "subnormality rating" of the average Londoner, and see if YOU can answer the questions.

## Should "K" have spent 40 years in hospital?

"K" is a severely handicapped spastic who was admitted to a subnormality hospital at the age of 13, 40 years ago. He is confined to a wheelchair, has virtually no use in his arms and hands, and has no speech. He communicates by means of an old typewriter, striking the keys with a peg attached to his foot.

According to "K" himself—it also appears in his records

—he was a normal baby, and up to the age of seven or so he went to an ordinary infant school, where he learned to read. Then round about that age, as he says, "something began to happen to me. I became clumsy and began to lose the use of my hands. I went in and out of various hospitals, but I gradually became worse until, by the age of 10, I was confined to a wheelchair. I had lost pretty well all use in my limbs and I could no longer speak so that people could understand me."

At this age "K" became a

problem at home (his mother had died when he was three and his father had married again), and he was admitted to a residential children's home. From there, three years later, he was sent to the subnormality hospital, where he has been ever since.

In 1934, shortly after admission to the hospital, he was tested and assessed as "abnormally dull, stupid, ignorant and childish in manner." This diagnosis was repeated word for word in further reports in July and December, 1937, and again in 1938, when "feeble-minded" was added. These identical adjectives appear in reports made in 1943, 1944, 1949 and 1954, since when no further reports on him have been made.

The questions which were designed to provide the evidence for this assessment take no account of the severe limitations in experience caused by his physical condition, nor of the fact that, since the age of seven, he has received no formal education whatever. He was in fact described as "ineducable" in 1931 and excluded from school, as was the practice at that time.

Here is a typical selection of observations which are quoted as demonstrating his feeble-mindedness:

"All he can tell me about London is that the King lives there." (1938).

"He cannot tell me what Leap Year means." (1938).

"He cannot name the capitals of Ireland and Scotland." (1943).

"He said that a man could walk one mile in an hour. Little idea of distance. He could not define charity or faith." (1944).

"He did not know the name of the President of the United States. He could not define justice or envy." (1949).

"Unable to perform simple monetary calculations. When shown 5s. 3d. was unable to say how much more he would need to make £1." (1954).

The crass obtuseness of an examiner who failed to realise the remoteness of such questions from "K's" experience and interests passes belief.

"K" follows the fortunes of a local football team. He can tell you the names of all the regular players. He can pass judgment on their current form from newspaper reports and from matches seen on TV.

He has adjusted himself to his situation, has established a routine, and is reasonably content. Indeed, he has become so thoroughly institutionalised that he resists any attempts to change his daily round. He has no wish to go outside the hospital, never goes on outings or holidays arranged for the patients by the League of Friends.

With the aid of his typewriter, "K" can carry on a lively conversation, with many flashes of wry humour and perceptive insights into his situation. When I asked him how long he had been at the hospital, he immediately tapped out, "Too long!" In the course of conversation I asked him what he would like if a millionaire came along and offered to buy him anything he wanted. His reply was very revealing:

"I don't want anything that money can buy. Money can't buy you happiness."

## Could test prove you subnormal?

THE average Londoner knows more about American politics than he does about politicians in this country. And when it comes to questions of finance, many Londoners do not seem aware of the standard rate of tax they pay.

These facts and others emerged from the answers given to a questionnaire which was given to people in Camden, Islington, Belsize Park and Vauxhall. It was based on the type of questions asked to subnormality hospital patients, and on the strength of The Spastics Society's survey almost all the people interviewed would have failed a subnormality assessment.

In fact, 81 per cent of those asked the 12 questions gave wrong or unsatisfactory answers to more than half. The survey followed the story printed

above, and was designed to test how the man in the street would fare asked up-dated versions of the same questions.

When asked what he knew about London, the patient "K" said the Queen lived there. Londoners answered "Buckingham Palace," "Changing of the Guard," "My mother," "Wimpy Bars," "Girls," "Traffic Jams" and "Pubs."

Few of the people asked could name the British Home Secretary or the Secretary of State for Social Services, but most knew who the President of the United States was. A large proportion could not define justice, and many thought a metre was considerably longer than a mile.

The Spastics Society has no plans for trying to get Londoners put in subnormality hospitals, but it is trying to get those spastics who are wrongly diagnosed out.

Questions only form part of the assessment of subnormality patients, but it is a major part.

## The questions

Who is the Vice-President of the United States?

Most people got this wrong, many thinking it was Dr. Kissinger. 14 per cent got it right.

Who is the President of the United States?

Watergate has its compensation in terms of publicity; 91 per cent knew Mr. Nixon for what he is.

Who is the new British Home Secretary?

Unfortunately Mr. Jenkins was not so well known. 19 per cent got it right.

Who is the new British Secretary of State for Social Services?

Likewise, only 6 per cent knew the right answer.

What is the capital city of Southern Ireland?

With Ireland constantly in the news, it was surprising that about 30 per cent got this one wrong.

How far can a man walk in one hour?

Some people seem to have taken into account either old age or wings, since the answers varied from one mile to 12 miles. 48 per cent were near the 3/4 mile answer.

Define the words envy and justice.

Most people could define envy (75 per cent), but only 14 per cent knew what justice was.

What is the standard rate of tax?

Despite all the deep feelings over this one, 28 per cent got it wrong.

When you think of London, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

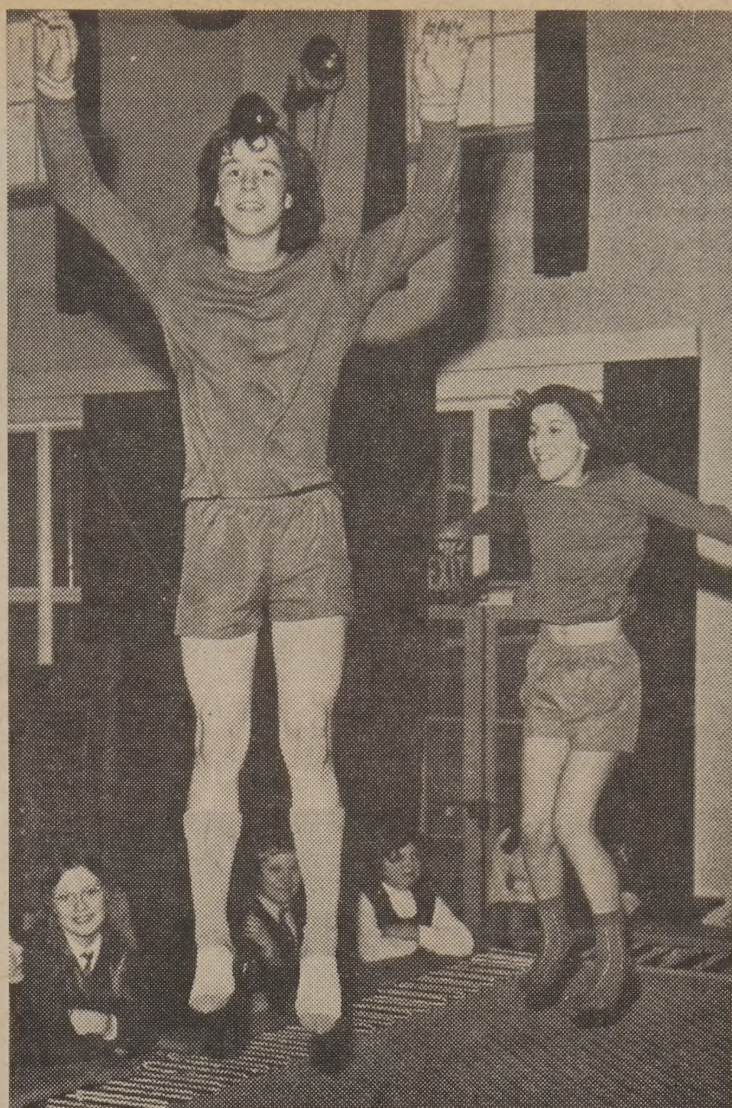
"My mother" and "Wimpy bars" were the unusual answers. Sad comments were noise and traffic jams, and others thought of big buildings and people.

How much longer than a mile is a metre?

Metricalisation hasn't really got home to Londoners yet, since many people thought the metre was either much longer than a mile or about 1/2 the length.

What were the dates of the last war?

This is really a trick question, but most people seem to have ignored the wars since 1945. But 16 per cent did remember Vietnam, Ireland, or the Arab-Israeli conflict, to name but a few.



### Trust needs volunteers

Sixty disabled children suffering from cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spina bifida and blindness, were able to holiday last summer at the Elizabeth Fitzroy Homes for the Handicapped Trust. They were looked after by young volunteers. Now the Trust is inviting applications for this year's holidays and for volunteers and fund-raisers.

Brothers, John and David Garner of Woodton, Norfolk, are pictured during their sponsored trampoline marathon at Loddon Secondary School.

The two boys, aged 13 and 14, took it in turns to jump for five minutes at a time, keeping up the effort for three hours. Sponsors paid over £20 for the Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association.

Picture by courtesy of Eastern Daily Press.

## Going out in the North West

THE Community Council of Lancashire has published a useful booklet on Outings in the North West for the Physically Disabled. This lists holiday resorts and places of entertainment and recreation which people using wheelchairs, crutches or sticks, can visit without difficulty.

The guide covers a wide geographical area — from the Lake District and Lancashire coast to North Wales and the countryside of Staffordshire and Derbyshire. It indicates places suitable for party outings.

The normal price of the booklet is 30p post free, but there is a special price of 10p including postage for individual disabled persons and anyone who finds it difficult to get around.

The guide can be obtained from the Community Council of Lancashire, 5 Wynstay Grove, Manchester, M14 6XG (Tel. 061-224 3336/7).

\* \* \*

THE Disabled Living Foundation has published a book called "Management of Incontinence in the Home." This is the result of a survey carried out by Patricia Dobson, SRN, HV, with the co-operation of 77 people with varying degrees of incontinence, often complicated by other physical handicaps.

The 72-page book, costing £1.20, can be obtained from the Disabled Living Foundation, 346 Kensington High Street, London, W14 8NS.

## Incontinence with confidence



INCO PRODUCTS give all incontinent patients both young and old the confidence required to lead as normal a life as possible.

INCO GARMENTS — this washable garment is suitable for all ages of both sexes, being available in seven sizes (24" — 58" hips) Two new larger sizes are now available. New waist tapes have been added for greater comfort and convenience when changing the liner. Inco Garments are available from chemists and free from most Local Health Authorities.

INCO ROLL — an absorbent disposable liner in roll form which can be cut to any required length.

INCO UNDERPADS highly absorbent protective pads with a new soft facing. Available in two sizes 16½" x 24" and 30" x 24" through most local Authorities. The 16½" x 24" underpad can also be bought from chemists in packets of ten.

Robinsons OF CHESTERFIELD



NOW 2 LARGER SIZES WITH WAIST TAPES





Mr. O. J. Simmons of the Arundel Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, and Mr. J. Mitura from the Society's Jacques Hall Residential Centre look at seedlings in the greenhouses.



Miss M. R. Morgan, the Society's Head of Social Work and Employment, and Mr. Sidney Cleaver, who has recently retired as Warden of the Princess Marina Centre in Buckinghamshire, talk to Thorngrove residents Mr. Douglas Sharpe and Mr. Timothy Bower.



Mr. and Mrs. Tanner, newly appointed Wardens of the Kingston Adult House Unit to be opened next month, inspect building work in progress at Thorngrove.



Mr. S. A. Rhodes (right), Warden of Thorngrove, shows Mr. and Mrs. Lawton of Broadstones Hostel, Birmingham, and Mr. E. Chapleo of Wakes Hall, Essex, round the centre.



In conversation outside the shop at Thorngrove are (left to right) Mr. Richard Gray, the Society's Head of Development, Mr. Hunter, a member of staff at Thorngrove, and Mr. F. W. Bellman, Warden of Daresbury Hall, Lancashire.

## Wardens get together at Thorngrove

A WARDENS' Conference was held recently at the Society's Thorngrove Agricultural Centre in Dorset. These meetings are held about twice a year for the Heads of The Spastics Society's residential

centres, adult house units and hotels. They are based on a different centre each time so that staff have an opportunity of seeing units other than their own. There is a full discussion of topics of major interest to the future of the Society's centres and those who live in them.

Taking part in the Thorngrove meeting were also heads of two centres run by local groups of the Society—the Lincolnshire Spastics Centre and Scalesceugh Hall in Cumberland. Delegates heard a talk by Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, the Society's Director of Resources, on "Needs Versus Resources," and the necessity in allocating available funds to keep a balance between maintaining existing facilities and making new improvements.

The meeting lasted from 7 p.m. until 4 p.m. the following day, and delegates stayed overnight at the Horsington Hotel, Templecombe, Somerset. They were joined for dinner by Mr. Alex Moira, a founder-member and present Vice-Chairman of the Society, and Mrs. Moira. Mr. James Loring, Director of the Society, gave an informal address.

Sir Kenneth Corley, Chairman of the Lucas engineering combine, recently visited the Work Centre run by the Monmouthshire Spastics Society. Here he is pictured, second from right, watching Tony Sicola twisting rods to be used in the manufacture of brushes. Also in the picture are Mr. Joe Davies and Mr. Roy Bailey, right, Work Centre Manager.

# "Cruel" to send all handicapped children to comprehensive schools, says new Report

THE advocates today of comprehensive education are many, and include those who would like to see all children, handicapped and able-bodied, sharing common schooling.

However, in a Report\* published on April 23rd, dealing with some of the problems faced by the handicapped adolescent, The Spastics Society comes out strongly against comprehensive facilities for all children. It stresses that "at this stage it would be improper and even cruel if handicapped pupils were transferred from special schools — many of which have remarkably high standards — to ordinary schools, many of which are not yet organised or designed to contain them and may be functioning at an inferior level, merely to satisfy doctrinaire educational theory."

Instead, the Society, which runs seven schools for 500 cerebral palsied children, considers there is a need "for less dogmatism and more research before a proven system of special educational facilities and achievements is abandoned." Consequently, despite its firm belief that the primary object of schooling is "education and not social engineering," it announces that it has combined with the Institute of Education, London University, to undertake an extensive research

project into the progress of handicapped children who are being educated at ordinary schools. And it considers this two-year study should provide valuable information and data for the special committee set up to enquire into special education.

Meantime, the Society is concerned that where handicapped children are receiving education in ordinary schools, more specialist help should be available to teaching staff.

To counter some of the isolation suffered by handicapped young people, it is suggested that a dialogue should be set up between ordinary schools

and special schools at secondary level to discuss some form of "twinning" as practised by large cities at home and abroad; and that special school horizons could be widened even further by twinning arrangements with European schools, and exchange visits.

The Society would also like to see some of the problems of handicap aired in ordinary secondary schools as part of the educative process since, with at least 1 in 12 children aged 5-15 suffering from some degree of physical or mental handicap it believes "this aspect of education has real significance."

The Report also deals with further and higher education, and emphasises that now a school-leaving age of 16 is universal, more opportunities for further education need to be made available to handicapped children who often lag far behind the maturation stage of their unhandicapped peers.

Where it is felt that a handicapped young man or woman is going to be employable, the Society considers that it is important that further education courses should be made as relevant as possible. However, further education should not be considered merely as a "finishing process" for employment as, for many severely handicapped young school-leavers it will merely be a necessary path to better social skills.

Local authority evening classes are criticised as tending to overlook the needs and desires of the disabled, with the planners appearing to assume automatically that those wishing to take part will possess a certain physical or mental competence. Instead, it is felt that more classes should be geared to lower levels of

ability and to the physical or mental skills of handicapped people, both young and old.

"While it is laudable to provide courses in Albanian, dog training or native drums for the interested few, it is surely more imperative to provide, say, cookery lessons or dressing lessons for the physically handicapped or slow-learning young school-leaver which are specially tailored to the girls' capabilities and will enable them to function more efficiently in the home."

In the field of higher education, the Society believes that the severely handicapped young man or woman who gains a university place but who needs constant help with feeding, toileting and transport, should not be dependent on charity for aid with such personal problems.

In addition to the normal education grant, a further grant

to cover the cost of a personal helper should be the statutory right of all handicapped students in higher education who can be shown to need this provision.

The Report concludes that "in this technological age, only a very small proportion of handicapped school-leavers receive extended or further education; yet without that bridge to adulthood the door to even limited opportunity is liable to remain firmly closed to all but the minimally handicapped. Unless this situation is remedied the nation will continue to ignore an eager potential work force at the same time as it condemns handicapped young people to a sub-standard existence."

\* The Closed Door. A report on the handicapped adolescent, his education and further education, and the problems he encounters. Price 10p. Published by The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, DIN 4EQ.





## Handicap no bar to Duke's Award

THE Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has published a new leaflet describing how handicapped people can enter for Awards in competition with the able-bodied.

Appropriate adjustments in the programme of activities can be made to suit individual handicaps, but these do not involve any lowering of standards or soft options. As much, if not more, effort and persistence is demanded as from the able-bodied.

Boys and girls with learning difficulties, whether in ESN or other schools, are also encouraged to enter for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award if they can benefit from it. Experience has shown that with careful choice and wise guidance there is such a wide range of activities in the scheme that the slow learner can often achieve the Bronze standard, given the requirements of personal attention and coaching over an extended period of time.

The scheme, which is open to young people between the ages of 14 and 25, includes such aspects as service, expeditions, interests, design for living and physical activity.

Further details may be obtained from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Offices as follows:

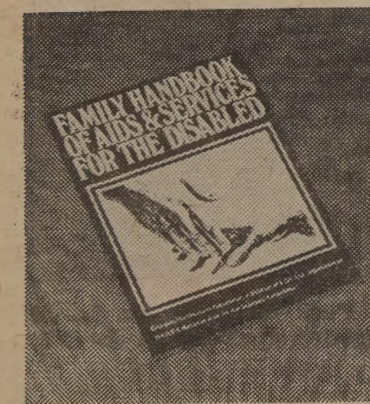
Head Office: 2, Old Queen Street, London, SW1 H9 HR. Tel. 01-930 7681.

Wales: 9, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF1 9HA. Tel. 0222 28570.

Scotland: 10, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AA. Tel. 031-225 2685.

Northern Ireland: 593, Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GS. Tel. 667 123.

## Reference guide to services



AN invaluable guide for anyone who is handicapped, or knows somebody who is disabled, is the brand new Family Handbook of Aids and Services.

The three-part book was launched in April and costs 95p plus postage.

It contains a list of products or equipment with an A to Z, and a list of charities. Brenda Leech of Harrison Associates which published the handbook, said: "It is designed to be a quick reference for people to keep in their home. If they want a wheelchair then they only have to look up the subject and find a list of suppliers. It has been kept fairly simple so that the elderly, for instance, won't find it complicated or confusing."

The Family Handbook of Aids and Services is obtainable from Harrison Associates, 943a Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey.

## Fly-away Linda is home again



Linda Sargent is back at her desk at The Spastics Society's Wilfred Pickles School after her trip of a lifetime to America. Headmaster Mr. R. Pedder said: "She's bubbling over with the excitement of it all."

Linda, aged 11, won her dream holiday by painting a picture of a flower in a vase with a brush held in her mouth for a children's painting competition.

The prize of 10 days in

Florida for Linda and her parents was extended by local fund-raising to include Linda's twin sister, Ruth, and six-year-old brother, Colin, pictured here at London airport at the start of the trip.

"As far as I know, Linda has no plans for entering any more painting competitions—at the moment," said Mr. Pedder.

Picture by courtesy of the London Evening Standard

## They wouldn't give up their big swim

IF at first you don't succeed—the South East Regional Office did not give up when, with all the recruiting and hard work finished, their Southampton swim for spastics scheduled for last December, was cancelled because of an overtime ban by staff of the Central Baths.

The swim was eventually held months after the original date, and several hundred spectators were there to witness 180 swimmers drawn from Southampton schools and clubs, plunging into the water for a total sponsorship of £1,150.

The swimmers were spurred on by the opening speech of International swimmer Ray Terrell, who has been swimming for Great Britain since he was 13 years old. He has represented his country in two Commonwealth Games and the Mexico Olympics, as well as travelling to Canada, America, Italy, Spain and Russia.

The Southampton Spastics Group turned out in force on the night acting as marshals and lane judges, and even swimming themselves.

Una Gillman, local appeals officer and organiser of the swim, is now busy collecting in the proceeds.



Fareham Ladies' Circle collected £1,000 for this mobile video recording equipment, and here Mrs. M. Abbott, who runs the Cerebral Palsy Unit at Cosham, Hampshire, gives members of the Circle a demonstration.

Picture by courtesy of The News, Portsmouth.

## Westward Ho! for the disabled

THE Central Council for the Disabled has reserved two chalets at Westward Ho! Holiday Centre, Devon, for most weeks of the summer season. This has been made possible by the co-operation of directors and managers. The object is to make it possible for a disabled family to take a holiday when it may be more convenient for them and their children, than the usual "before or after season" group holidays.

The chalets will be available, at the commercial rate, for families which include a physically handicapped person. They will be equipped with basic aids. A resident S.R.N. is on the camp staff who will help with injections and emergencies, but her duties are fully taken up with the daily needs of the whole Centre, so neither she nor other staff are able to provide personal help for the disabled person. In certain circumstances it may be possible to provide an escort for one or two disabled people alone, or to supplement family help. The site is unsuitable for anyone with heart trouble.

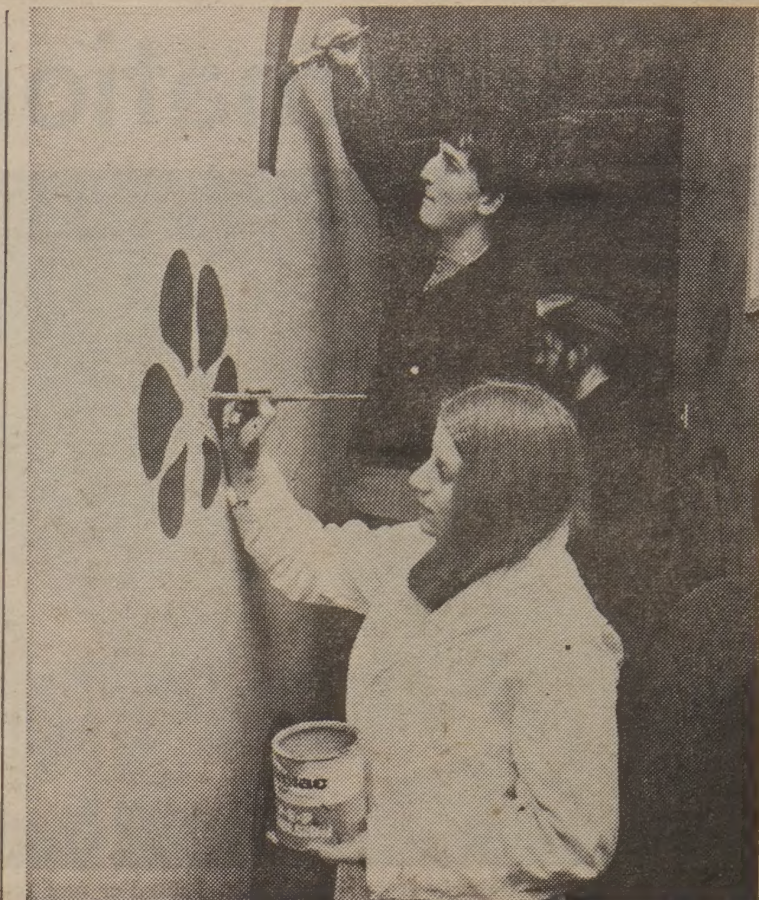
Local Authorities, voluntary organisations, clubs and individuals should apply for these places as early as possible to: Holidays Department, Central Council for the Disabled, 34 Eccleston Square, London SW1.

## Problem of older spastics tackled in Scotland

AFTER years of neglect, the increasingly acute problem of providing proper facilities for physically disabled adolescents and adults in Scotland was beginning to be tackled with some of the drive and imagination already being applied in the case of children, Perth Council for the Disabled were told at their annual meeting.

Cdr. Archie Cameron, Director of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, cited the Upper Springlands scheme at Perth, where his Council, aided by a gift of land and £500,000 from the Gannochy Trust, will start work this year on the largest project for the care of physically handicapped adults in semi-independent living ever planned in Scotland.

"I would emphasise that the facilities, which will ultimately offer specially designed apart-



A surprise birthday present for Mr. David Robinson, Chairman of Woking Council, Surrey, took the form of a donation of £216 for the White Lodge Spastics Centre, Chertsey, Surrey, the charity which Mr. Robinson has chosen to support during his year of office. The donation was made up of £100 from the Old Woking Community Association, plus £100 from the Delata youth club. The balance was made up by a collection taken during the dinner at which the presentations took place.

## Colourful world at Cosham

When children attending the Cerebral Palsy Unit in Cosham, Portsmouth, went home the other Friday they left the centre neat and nice, but a bit on the bare side. They returned after the weekend to find it a razzmatazz of brilliant colours, zinging with brilliant rainbows and crazy flowers. Portsmouth Polytechnic students, paint and brushes in hand, had moved in and held a "Paint-in" as part of their Student Festival Week.

Said art student Chris Wallis: "We hope the children like what we have done. It certainly brightens the place up!"

Picture by courtesy of The News, Portsmouth, Hants.

In its first 10 months of existence the recently-formed Aylesbury and District Spastics Society has raised over £1,000. The organisation was originally formed as a support group for Chiltern House short-stay centre for spastics at Oxford, but the committee would like to give more direct help to local spastics and their parents.

## New hostel in South Africa

THE United Cerebral Palsy Association of South Africa has recently opened a hostel for teenagers, which will provide accommodation for 12 boys and 12 girls. The building includes a workshop where the residents can learn art and craftwork.

The South African UCPSA was formed in 1952. Four years later a clinic was opened which soon had to move into larger premises near Johannesburg. In 1966 a 100-bed hostel was opened to accommodate the children receiving treatment and therapy at the clinic.

Black children are looked after in a separate clinic, the ground for which was donated by the UCPSA of South Africa to the provincial hospital. Here an average of 60 to 70 children a day are seen by white and black medical and paramedical staff.

## Local contact

It was hoped, in co-operation with the City of Perth, to provide accommodation at the work centre for the city's own physically disabled, and that the proposed community centre also would be a point of contact with local people.

Upper Springlands was a prototype of the kind of project which was required in other parts of Scotland. Because of advances in medical science and treatment, greatly increased numbers of the handicapped were achieving normal life spans, intensifying the problem of care when their parents died or could no longer cope.

## "Dumped"

It was not enough to place people who could partially look after themselves in apartments and leave it at that; they must also be given outlets for work, study and leisure activities, as similar as possible to those of the rest of the population. At all costs the scandal of people who found themselves dumped in totally inappropriate institutions must be halted.

"That is a form of apartheid just as damaging and hurtful as the racial variety," said Cdr. Cameron.



# International Seminar at Oxford



Rev. Professor E. O'Doherty from Ireland, Mr. John Per and Miss Ann Trotman. Mr. Per and Miss Trotman were among the handicapped delegates to the Seminar.

**E**XPERTS from 27 professions and 19 countries attended the International Cerebral Palsy Society's Seminar at University College, Oxford, in April. Our pictures today show some of the speakers and delegates relaxing at the President's Reception before the serious business of the four-day Seminar, which was devoted to some of the problems facing both handicapped and able-bodied adolescents.

A remarkable feature of the Seminar was that, in addition to the gathering of world experts, many spastics also took part.

The Seminar Director, Mrs. Anita Loring, will be writing fully about the work of the Seminar in the next issue of Spastics News.



Mrs. Anita Loring, Seminar Director, with Dr. Adriano Milani-Comparetti, from Italy, President of the International Cerebral Palsy Society.



Mr. S. A. Al-Majid, His Excellency Abdulla Al-Ghanim, adviser on special education to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, with Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society and Hon Secretary General of the I.C.P.S.



Mrs. Cristina Dias Neves, a social worker with the Portuguese Spastics Society, Mr. M. Robinson, Headmaster of Foreland School, Kent, and Dr. Maria Andrada, Portugal.



Professor Jirina Cizkova, Czech-born paediatrician who now lives and works in Canada, with Miss Van Dulm from the Netherlands.



Dr. Milani-Comparetti, Mr. Edward Doherty, Warden of Oakwood Further Education Centre, Mrs. Fritzie Hein, lawyer, and Mrs. Ethel Hausman, hon treasurer of the I.C.P.S., and both from United Cerebral Palsy New York City Inc., and Mr. Alexander Innes, an orthopaedic surgeon.



Mr. Michael Stopford, Head of Centres for The Spastics Society; Rev. O'Doherty, Mr. Leslie Gardner, educational psychologist, and Mr. Erhard Lungfiel, an inspector of schools for the City of Hamburg, Germany.



Above: Mr. Loring and Dr. Reuven Kohen-Raz, University of Jerusalem. Left: Miss Toula Christaki, social worker from Greece, and Miss Rosemary Dawson-Shepherd.



Dr. Phillip Kushlick, South Africa, Commander A. Cameron from the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics, and Dr. David Morris.